



2001: A SPACE  
ODYSSEY

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BASED ON CONCEPTS  
FROM THE MGM  
STANLEY KUBRICK  
PRODUCTION

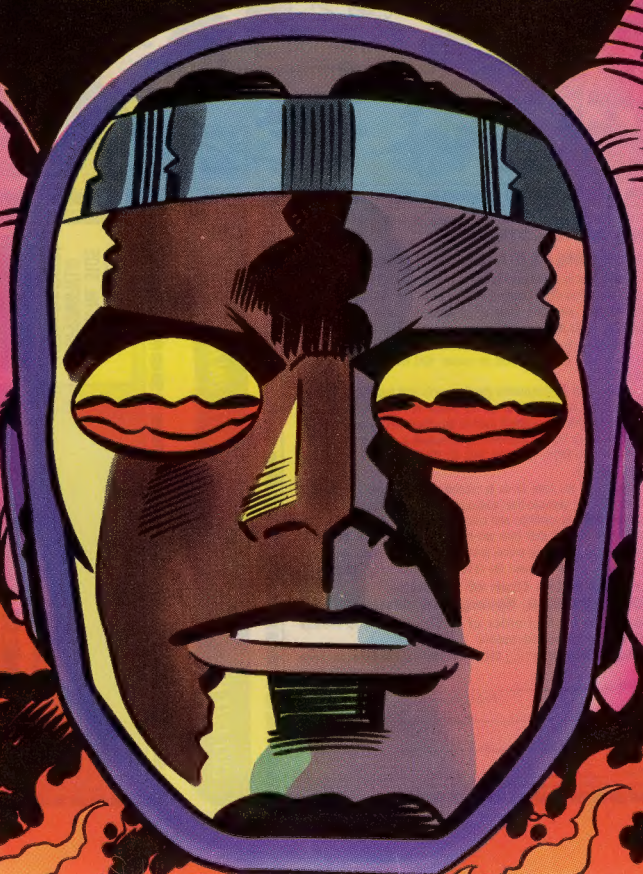
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# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™ **MISTER MACHINE**

*BATTLES OVERWHELMING EVIL FOR THE ONE  
THING HE MAY NOT POSSESS--A SOUL!*

**HOTLINE  
TO  
HADES!**





STAN LEE PRESENTS:

# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY™

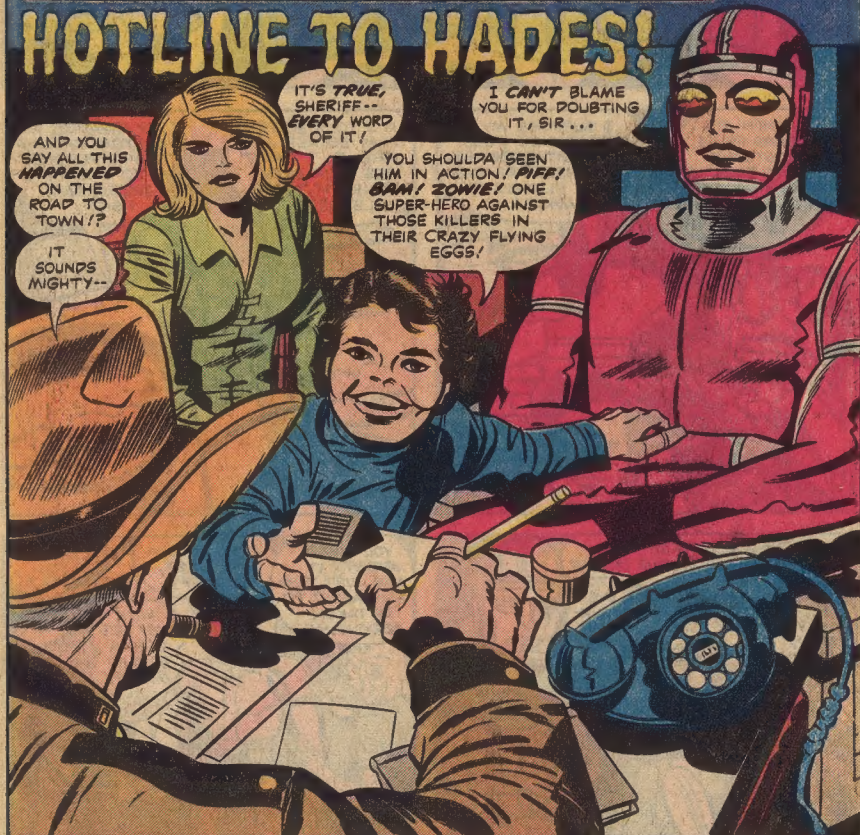
BASED ON CONCEPTS OF THE MGM MOVIE BY STANLEY KUBRICK AND ARTHUR C. CLARKE

EDITED, WRITTEN & DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • LETTERS N' INKS BY **MIKE ROYER** • COLORS BY **SAM KATO** • APPRECIATED BY **ARCHIE GOODWIN**

## MISTER MACHINE

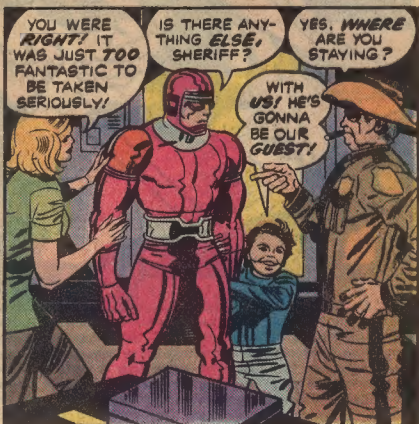
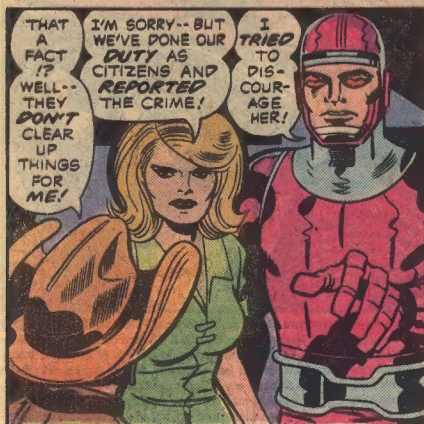
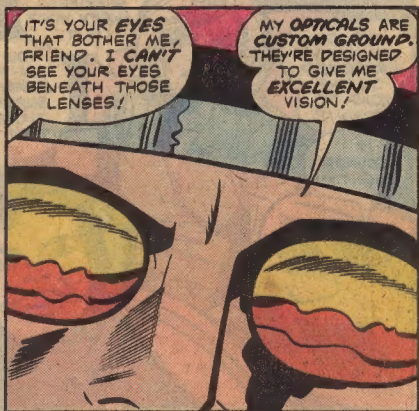
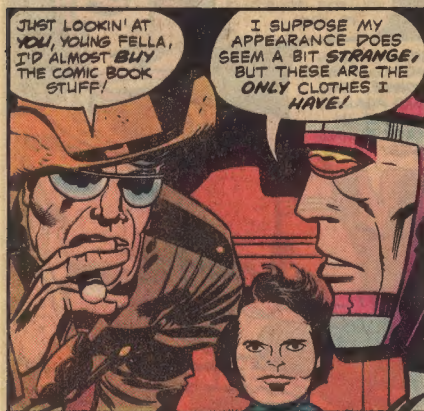
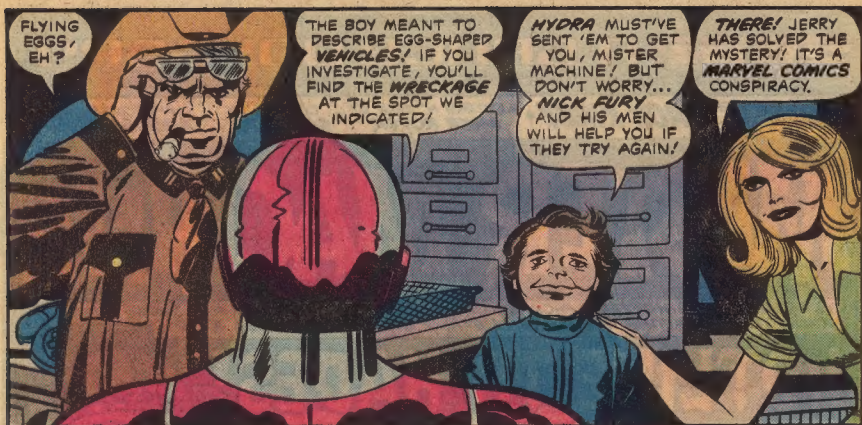
IS PROBABLY THE HOTTEST PACKAGE OF HARDWARE ON EARTH! AND THOSE WHO KNOW IT ARE WAITING IN AMBUSH! STAND BY FOR SURPRISES! READ!

### HOTLINE TO HADES!

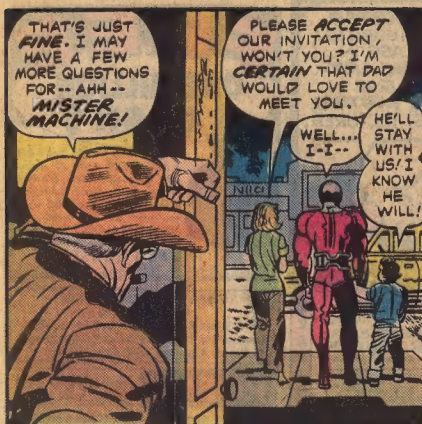


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THAT'S JUST FINE. I MAY HAVE A FEW MORE QUESTIONS FOR-- AHH-- **MISTER MACHINE!**

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR INVITATION, WON'T YOU? I'M CERTAIN THAT DAD WOULD LOVE TO MEET YOU.

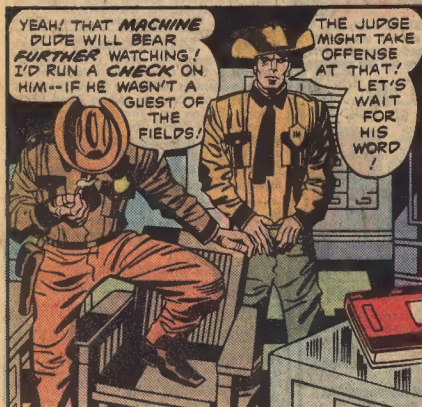
WELL... I-I--  
HE'LL STAY WITH US, I KNOW HE WILL!



A MOMENT LATER...

DID YOU GET AN EARFUL OF THAT STORY, MAYNARD?

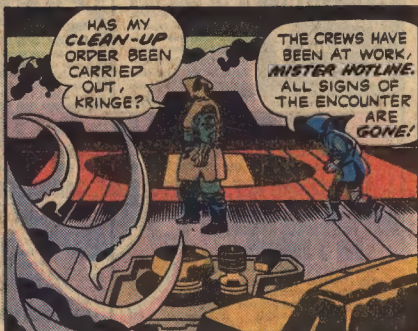
I GOT AN EYEFUL, TOO! AND...IT WASN'T OLIVIA FIELDS. I WAS LOOKING AT, EITHER!



YEAH! THAT MACHINE DUDE WILL BEAR FURTHER WATCHING! I'D RUN A CHECK ON HIM--IF HE WASN'T A GUEST OF THE FIELDS!

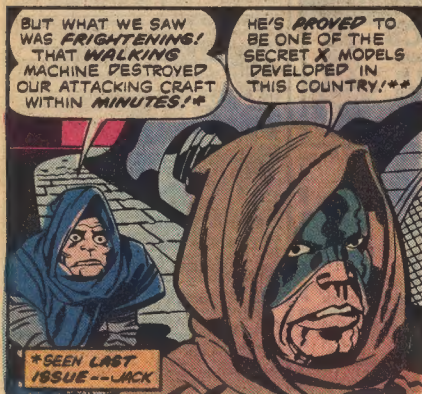
THE JUDGE MIGHT TAKE OFFENSE AT THAT! LET'S WAIT FOR HIS WORD!

WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE, HOWEVER, IS ALL TOO REAL. THE HILLS SURROUNDING THE TOWN CONCEAL A LAVISH HIDDEN BUNKER COMPLEX.



HAS MY CLEAN-UP ORDER BEEN CARRIED OUT, KRINGE?

THE CREWS HAVE BEEN AT WORK, MISTER HOTLINE. ALL SIGNS OF THE ENCOUNTER ARE GONE!



BUT WHAT WE SAW WAS FRIGHTENING! THAT WALKING MACHINE DESTROYED OUR ATTACKING CRAFT WITHIN MINUTES!\*

HE'S PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE SECRET X MODELS DEVELOPED IN THIS COUNTRY!\*



B-BUT HE'S ALSO VERITABLY HUMAN! HE THINKS LIKE A MAN! HE ACTS LIKE A MAN!

SILENCE!

DON'T MENTION THOSE WORDS!

THAT MACHINE POSSESSES THE FACULTY OF FREE WILL!!

\*SEEN LAST ISSUE--JACK

\*\*REFER TO ISSUE #8 FOR FURTHER DETAILS--J.K.



WE OF THE **BROTHERHOOD OF NADES** OPPOSE ALL THAT THEY REPRESENT -- **CONFLICT! CHAOS! DISINTEGRATION!**

OUR GOAL IS **UNIVERSAL MIND CONTROL!**

STAY, KRINGE!

I-IT'S **NOT** THAT I MIND THE RITUAL, MISTER HOTLINE-- BUT FACING **HIM** MAKES ME A BIT -- **UNEASY!**

ALL MEN REACT TO THE **MIND MONITOR** THAT WAY... YET, ONE DAY, UNIVERSAL PROGRAMMING SHALL MAKE HIS AN IMAGE OF **WORSHIP AND LOVE!**

HE WILL DO THE THINKING FOR ALL MEN!

I KNOW THE REST! **HIS** THOUGHTS ARE THE **ULTIMATE LOGIC AND JUSTICE!**

SUPPENSEFULLY...

**WHO CALLS ME FORTH!?**

THIS IS **HOTLINE**, GREAT **MONITOR!** IN YOUR SERVICE I FIND ORDER AND FULFILLMENT!

AND... I'VE FOUND AN **X MODEL!** IT **TRULY** EXISTS!

THEN... IT **MUST** BE BROUGHT BEFORE ME! I WOULD LOOK UPON ITS **FACE!**

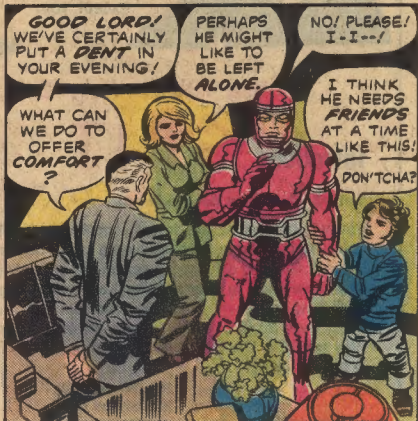
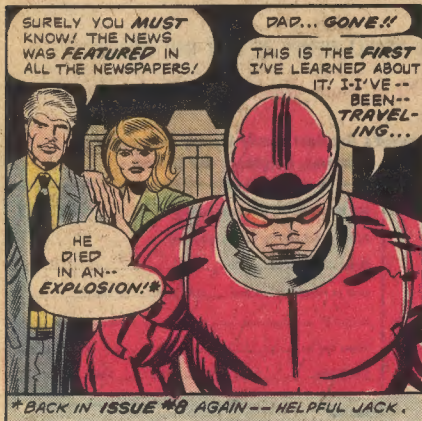
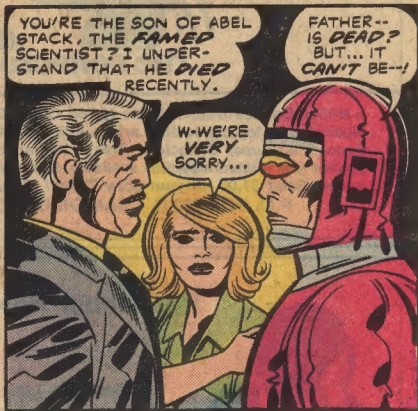
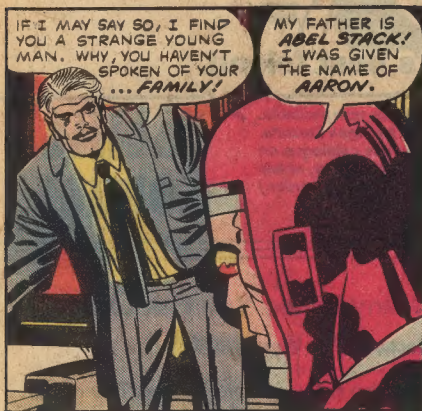
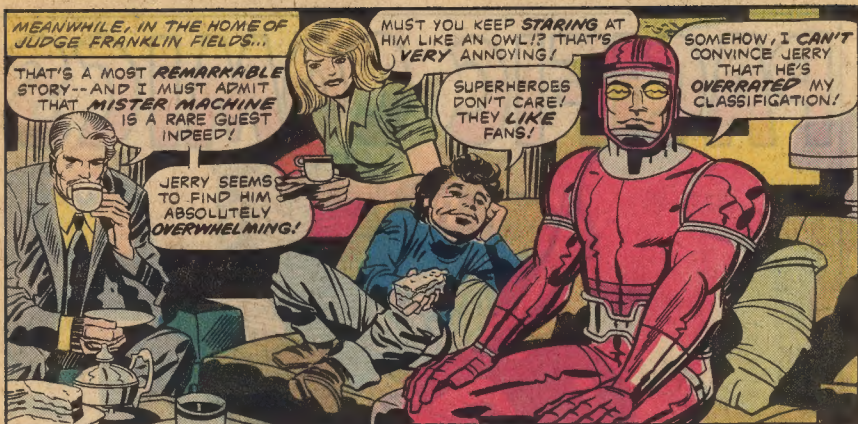
**YES, MONITOR!**

IN THIS ONE SUBJECT I CAN REACH THE VERY ESSENCE OF WHAT MAKES HIM **UNIQUE!**

LIKE A VIRUS, IT SHALL BE **ISOLATED AND PROBED** UNTIL ITS SECRET GIVES ME THE POWER TO CONTROL **ALL** LIVING THINGS!

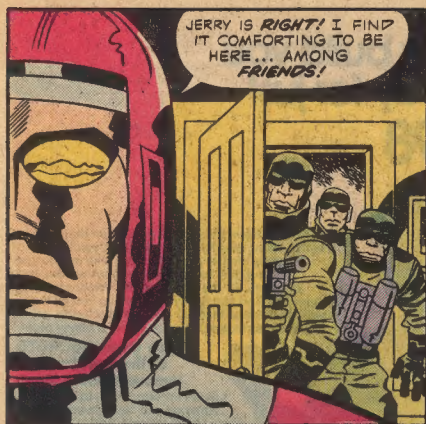
YOURS IS THE KEY TO **ETERNAL PEACE!**





\*BACK IN **ISSUE #8** AGAIN-- HELPFUL JACK.





JERRY IS RIGHT! I FIND IT COMFORTING TO BE HERE... AMONG FRIENDS!

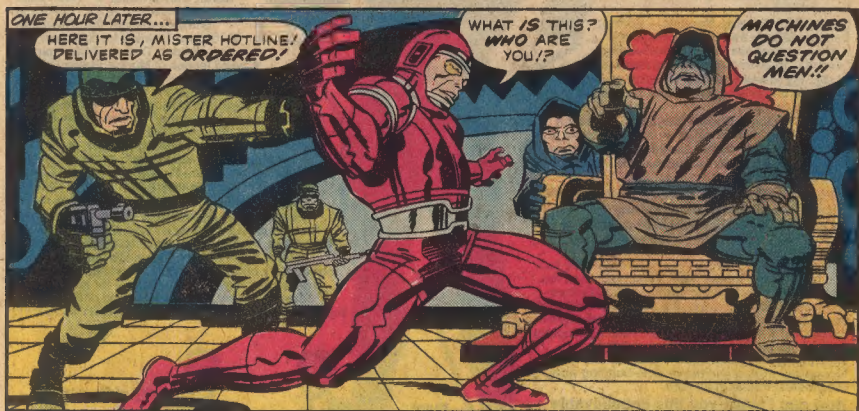


THAT'S CHANGED--!

YOU'RE COMING WITH US!

IF YOU DON'T --OUR MAN WILL TRIGGER THOSE BOMBS ON HIS CHEST--!

--AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL DIE!



ONE HOUR LATER...

HERE IT IS, MISTER HOTLINE! DELIVERED AS ORDERED!

WHAT IS THIS? WHO ARE YOU?!

MACHINES DO NOT QUESTION MEN!!



THIS MACHINE DOES!

POW!

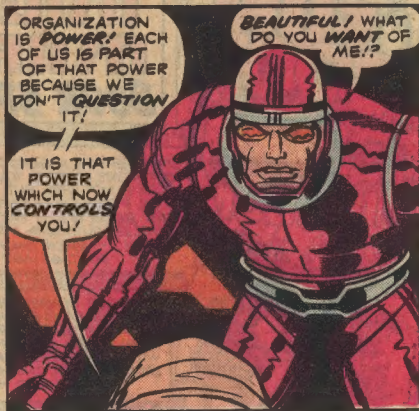


THESE ARMOR-PIERCING SHELLS WILL KEEP THAT THING IN LINE!

T-THEY WON'T PENETRATE! WE NEED MORE FIREPOWER--!

ALL GUNS-- FIRE!!







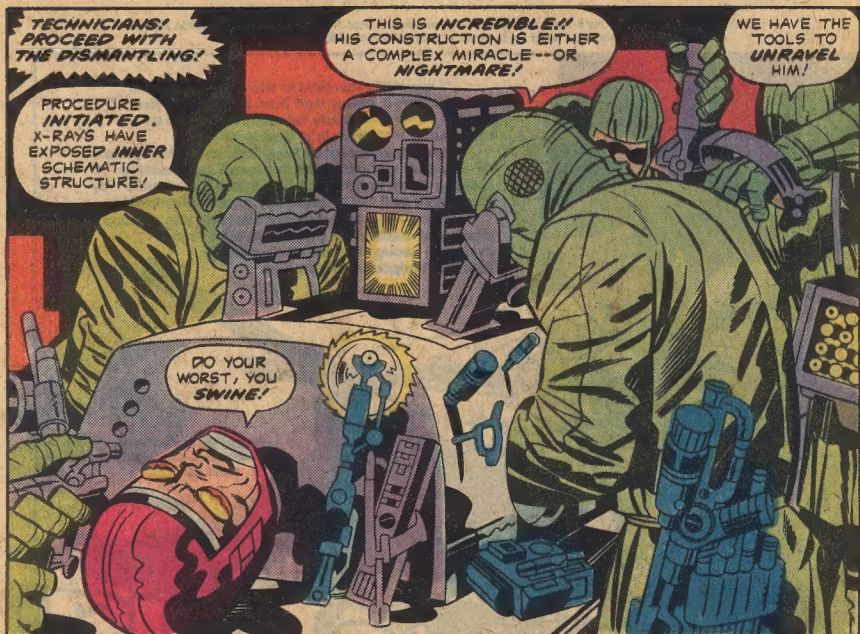
**TECHNICIANS!  
PROCEED WITH  
THE DISMANTLING!**

**THIS IS INCREDIBLE!!  
HIS CONSTRUCTION IS EITHER  
A COMPLEX MIRACLE--OR  
NIGHTMARE!**

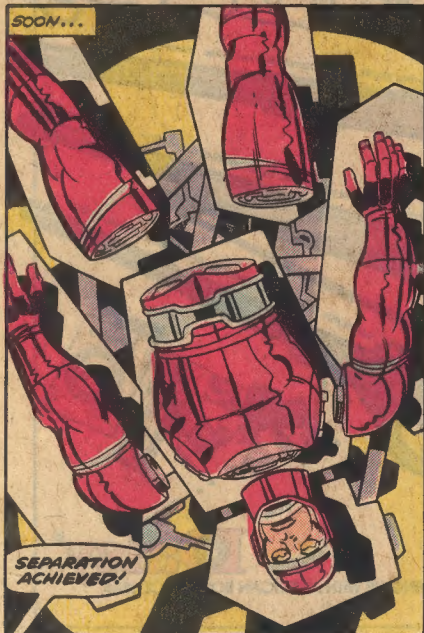
**WE HAVE THE  
TOOLS TO  
UNRAVEL  
HIM!**

**PROCEDURE  
INITIATED.  
X-RAYS HAVE  
EXPOSED INNER  
SCHEMATIC  
STRUCTURE!**

**DO YOUR  
WORST, YOU  
SWINE!**



**SOON...**

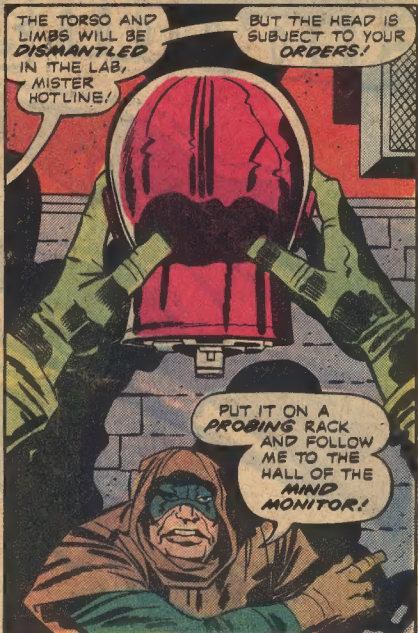


**SEPARATION  
ACHIEVED!**

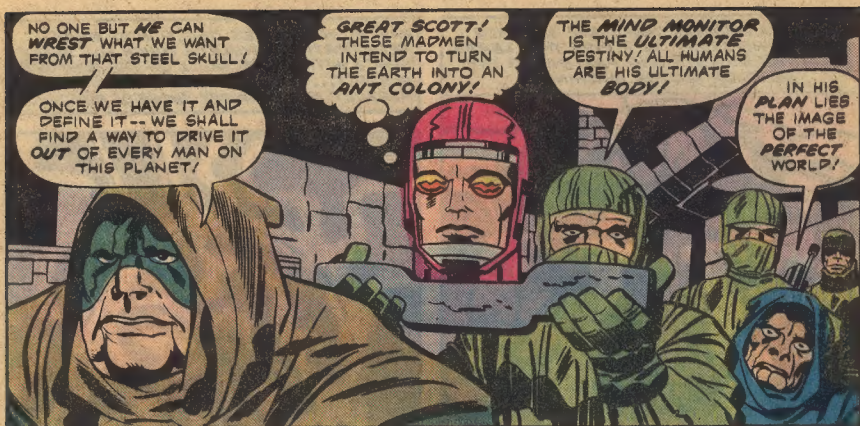
**THE TORSO AND  
LIMBS WILL BE  
DISMANTLED  
IN THE LAB,  
MISTER  
HOTLINE!**

**BUT THE HEAD IS  
SUBJECT TO YOUR  
ORDERS!**

**PUT IT ON A  
PROBING RACK  
AND FOLLOW  
ME TO THE  
HALL OF THE  
MIND  
MONITOR!**







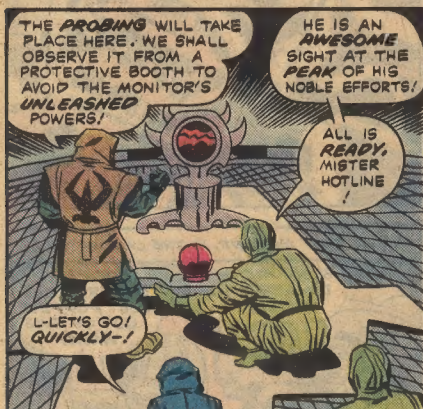
NO ONE BUT **HE** CAN  
WREST WHAT WE WANT  
FROM THAT STEEL SKULL!

ONCE WE HAVE IT AND  
DEFINE IT-- WE SHALL  
FIND A WAY TO DRIVE IT  
OUT OF EVERY MAN ON  
THIS PLANET!

GREAT SCOTT!  
THESE MADMEN  
INTEND TO TURN  
THE EARTH INTO AN  
ANT COLONY!

THE MIND MONITOR  
IS THE ULTIMATE  
DESTINY! ALL HUMANS  
ARE HIS ULTIMATE  
BODY!

IN HIS  
PLAN LIES  
THE IMAGE  
OF THE  
PERFECT  
WORLD!



THE **PROBING** WILL TAKE  
PLACE HERE. WE SHALL  
OBSERVE IT FROM A  
PROTECTIVE BOOTH TO  
AVOID THE MONITOR'S  
**UNLEASHED**  
POWERS!

HE IS AN  
**AWESOME**  
SIGHT AT THE  
PEAK OF HIS  
NOBLE EFFORTS!

ALL IS  
**READY,**  
MISTER  
HOTLINE!

L-LET'S GO!  
QUICKLY--!



THEN...

THIS IS YOUR HUMBLE  
FOLLOWER, HOTLINE!

COME  
FORTH  
!!

SOMEHOW...  
**BENEATH**  
THIS  
MUMBO-JUMBO,  
I DETECT A  
**FAMILIAR**  
RING!



I SEE THE SUBJECT!

I FEEL THE PRESENCE  
OF BARRIERS WITHIN  
HIM!

BUT THEY  
SHALL SOON  
**FALL!**

AND I SEE  
AN IMAGE  
MATERIALIZING!  
AN OVER-  
POWERING  
IMAGE OF  
**EVIL!**



PREPARE  
TO YIELD  
THAT  
WHICH IS  
**FREE WILL!**

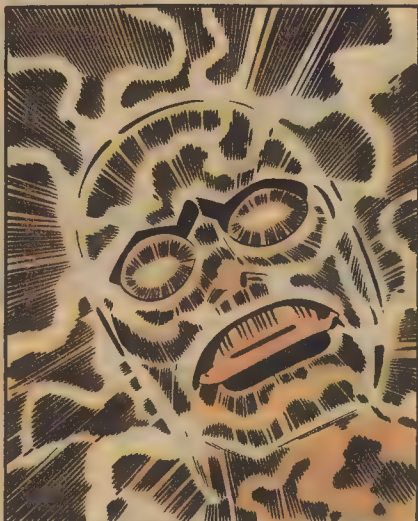
BY ALL  
THE OLD  
CLICHES!  
HE WANTS  
MY SOUL!



THERE IS A MONSTROUS SURGE OF FORCE  
BEHIND THE CREATURE'S EYES THAT LEAPS  
FROM THE SOCKETS AND FASTENS TO THE  
HEAD OF MISTER MACHINE...

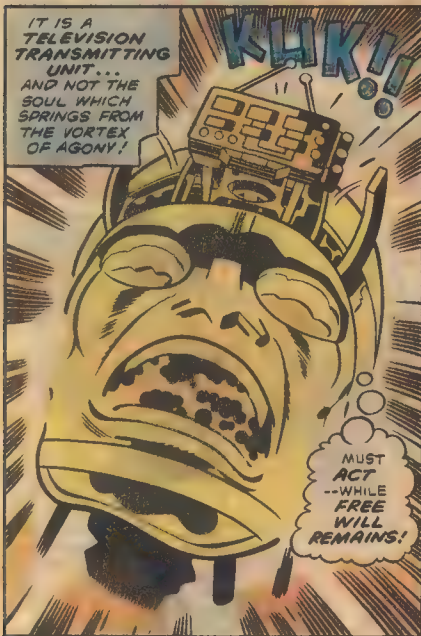


RAW POWER DIVIDES ITSELF INTO FIERY  
PENETRATING RIVULETS WHICH FILL EVERY  
SPACE WITHIN THE SKULL OF THE MONITOR'S  
SUBJECT... AND MEETING THIS HORRIBLE  
ASSAULT IS A COUNTER-SURGE OF RESISTANCE.



IT IS A  
TELEVISION  
TRANSMITTING  
UNIT...  
AND NOT THE  
SOUL WHICH  
SPRINGS FROM  
THE VORTEX  
OF AGONY!

KLIK!!



MUST  
ACT  
--WHILE  
FREE  
WILL  
REMAINS!

AND AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE LABORATORY...

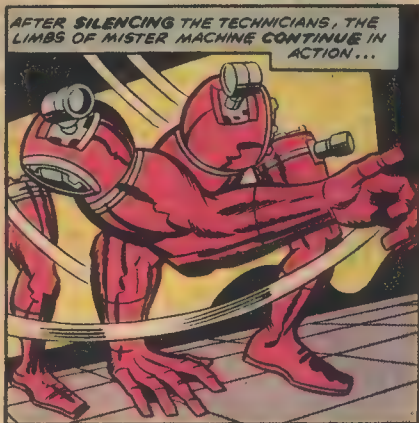
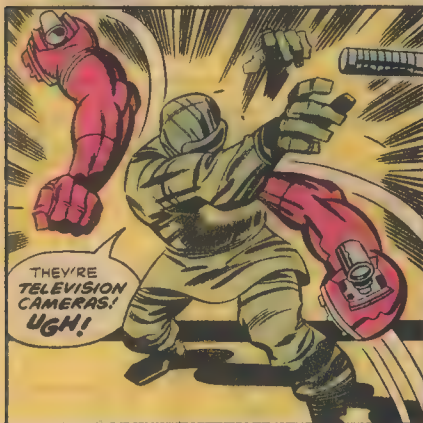
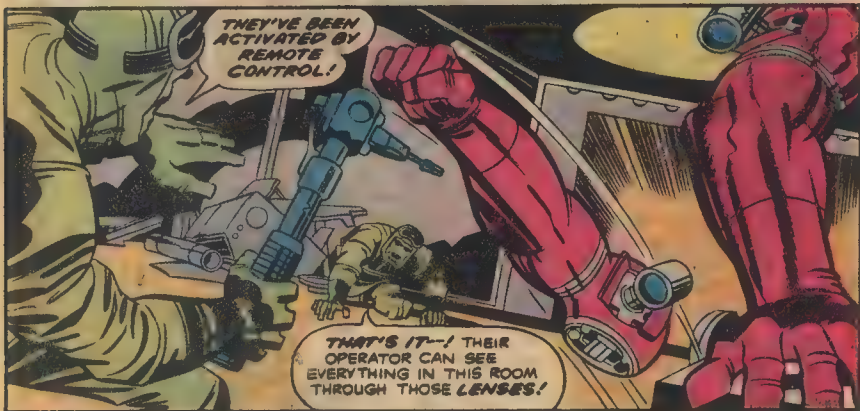
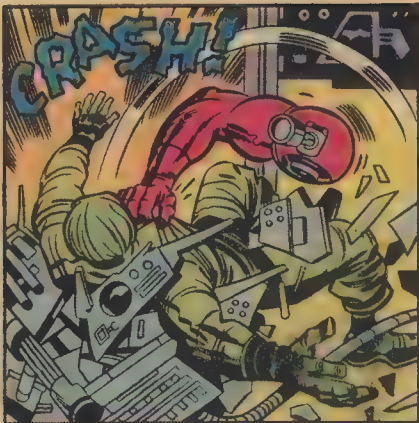


BRING IT OVER.  
I'M READY TO  
DRILL!

LOOK! A  
CAMERA LENS  
JUST POPPED  
OUT OF THIS  
ARM!

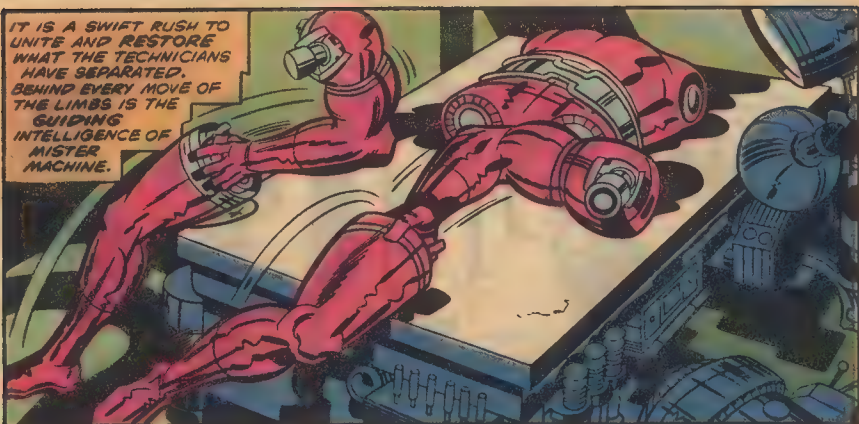
KLIK







IT IS A SWIFT RUSH TO  
UNITE AND RESTORE  
WHAT THE TECHNICIANS  
HAVE SEPARATED.  
BEHIND EVERY MOVE OF  
THE LIMBS IS THE  
GUIDING  
INTELLIGENCE OF  
MISTER  
MACHINE.



MEANTIME, OUTSIDE...

WHAT'S  
GOING ON  
IN THERE?  
I HEARD  
SHOUTS!

**BAM! BAM!**  
**BAM!**

GUARDS!  
THIS WAY!

TROUBLE  
IN THE  
LAB!



IT'S NO USE!  
WE CAN'T GET  
IN! THIS STEEL  
DOOR'S BEEN  
SHUT FROM  
THE INSIDE!

STAND ASIDE!  
THIS MISSILE-  
GUN CAN PUNCH  
HOLES IN ANY  
METAL!



WAIT! SOMEONE'S  
MOVING IN THERE!  
I CAN HEAR HIM  
COMING CLOSER  
TO THE DOOR!

I  
DON'T  
LIKE THE  
SOUND  
OF IT—!

**BLAST  
OPEN  
THE  
DOOR!**



SUDDENLY...

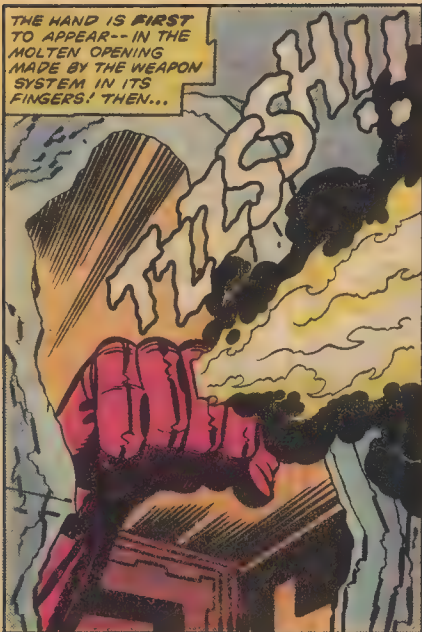
**RRSSSHH!!**

**EEYAAA!**

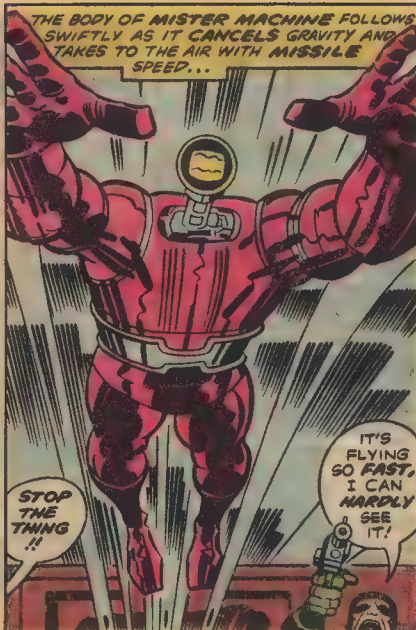




THE HAND IS FIRST  
TO APPEAR-- IN THE  
MOLTEN OPENING  
MADE BY THE WEAPON  
SYSTEM IN ITS  
FINGERS! THEN...



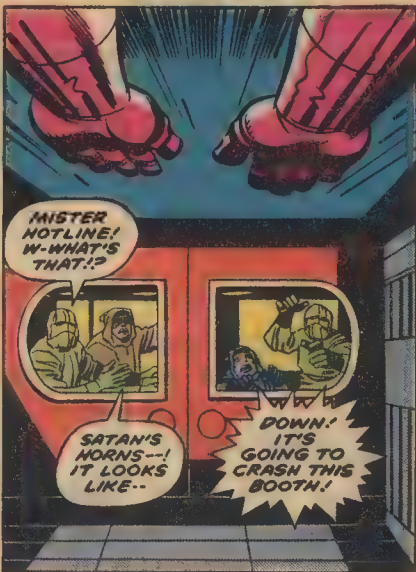
THE BODY OF MISTER MACHINE FOLLOWS  
SWIFTLY AS IT CANCELS GRAVITY AND  
TAKES TO THE AIR WITH MISSILE  
SPEED...



LIKE AN IRRESISTIBLE FORCE, THE FIGURE  
SHATTERS EVERY OBSTACLE IN ITS PATH...

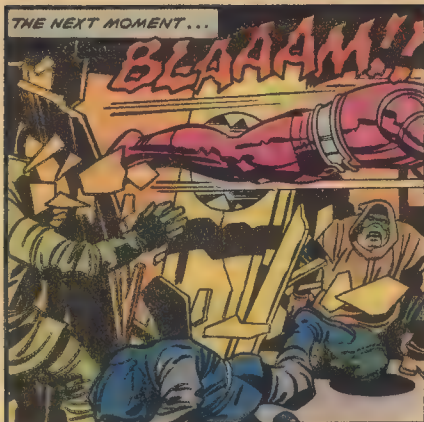


IT SOON REACHES ITS DESTINATION, HURT-  
LING FORWARD WITH INCREASING SPEED...

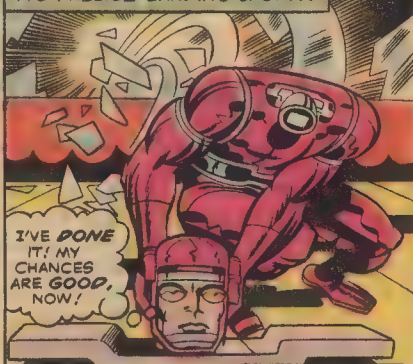




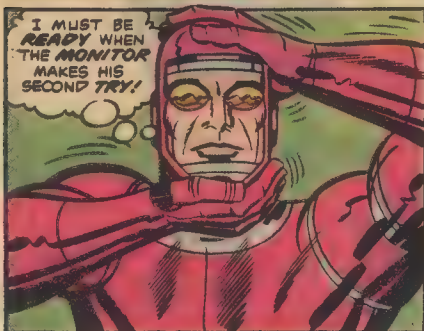
THE NEXT MOMENT...



WITHOUT FALTERING IN FLIGHT, THE THING VAULTS THROUGH THE BOOTH AND REACHES ITS PRECISE LANDING SPOT...



COMPLETE RESTORATION IS MADE QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY! MISTER MACHINE HAS THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF HIS STRUCTURE.



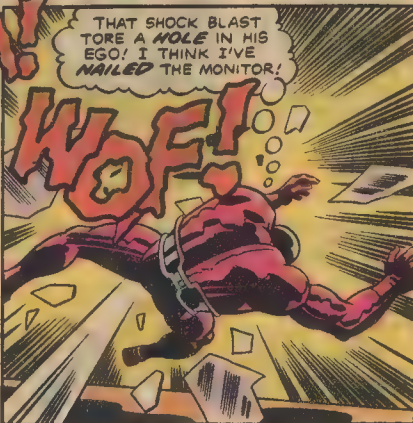
DON'T BOTHER REACHING FOR MY SOUL AGAIN! IT'S NOT UP FOR GRABS, YOU HORRENDOUS SOUPED-UP GIZMO!



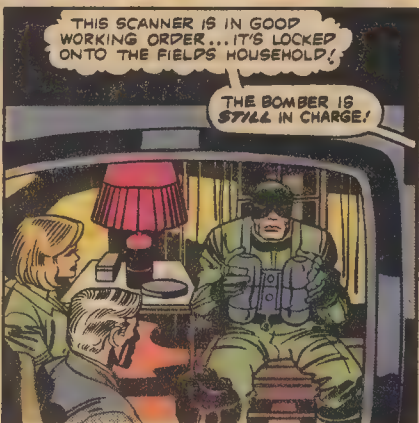
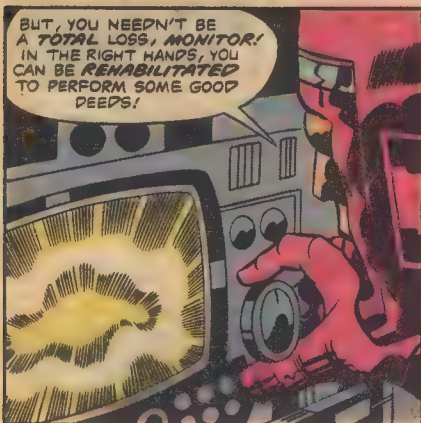
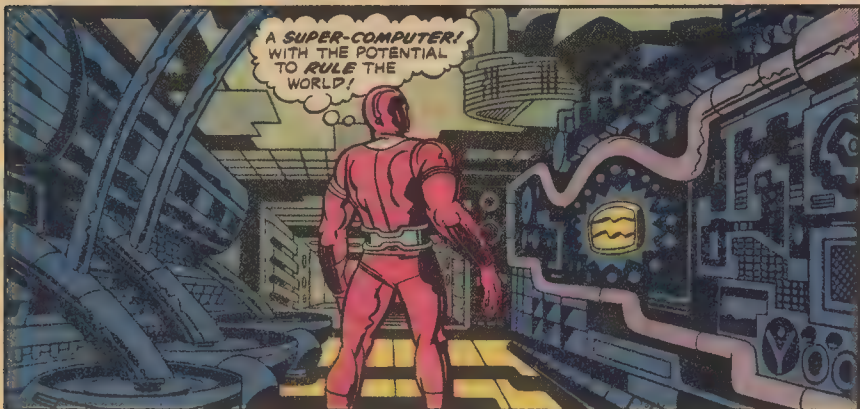
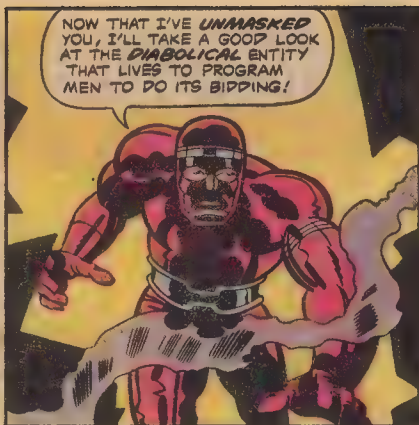
IT'S TIME I FOUND OUT WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF! --AND IF WHAT I SUSPECT IS TRUE, YOU'RE MORE DANGEROUS THAN SATAN!



THAT SHOCK BLAST TORE A HOLE IN HIS EGO! I THINK I'VE NAILED THE MONITOR!

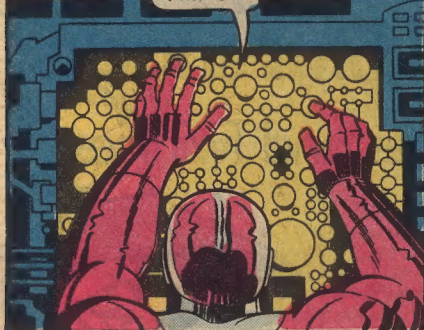








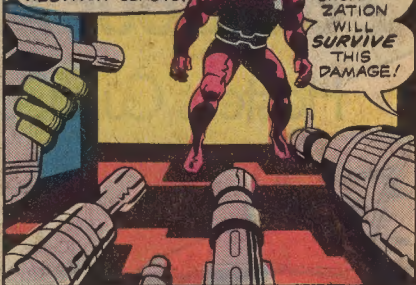
IT'LL TAKE A BIT OF ELECTRONIC RAZZLE-DAZZLE TO **TURN** THE TABLES. BUT, A PROPER MIXTURE OF SUB-SONIC COMBINATIONS CAN ACCOMPLISH ALMOST **ANY-THING!**



MISTER MACHINE NO SOONER FINISHES HIS TASK WHEN HIS ENEMIES CLOSE IN...

YOUR NUMBER'S UP, THIS TIME! THESE WEAPONS RANGE FROM LASER BEAMS TO **NEUTRON BLASTS!**

ONE OF THEM WILL STOP YOU FOR **CERTAIN!** THE HADES ORGANIZATION WILL **SURVIVE** THIS DAMAGE!



MEANWHILE AT THE FIELDS' HOME...

DAD! LOOK!

**SSFK!**

SOME-THING'S HAPPENING TO OUR CAPTOR!

HE'S **SPOUTING** ELECTRICITY!



NO! HE WAS **STRUCK** BY SOME KIND OF LIGHT **BEAMS** THAT MATERIALIZED FROM **NOWHERE!**

THEY'RE **DISINTEGRATING--!** TURNING TO **DRY POWDER!**

THEY'VE ALSO AFFECTED THE **BOMBS** ON HIS CHEST!



IT'S ALL SO **UNEXPECTED** AND **WEIRD!** YET... I'VE **NEVER** FELT MORE **RELIEVED!**

YES! IT'S LIKE GETTING A **REPRIEVE...** IN THE FINAL MOMENTS BEFORE **EXECUTION!**



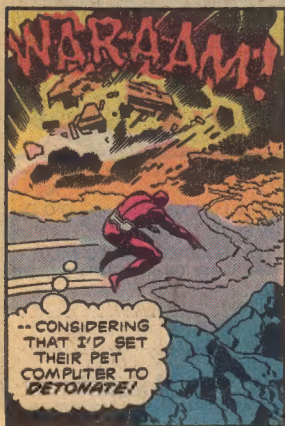
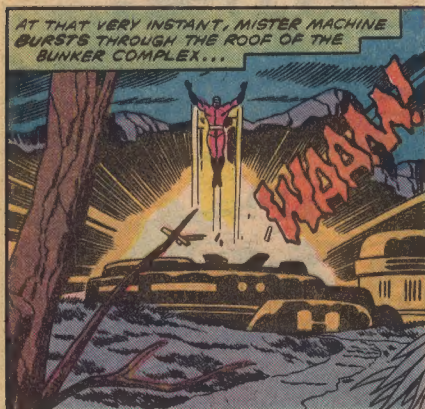
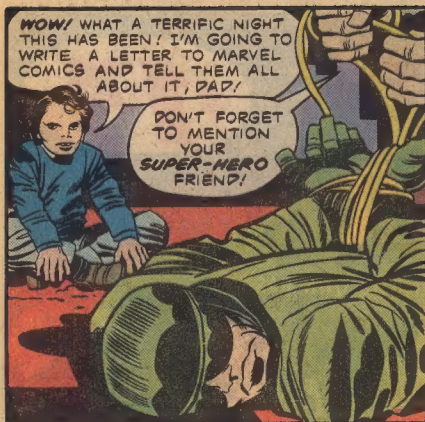
THIS FELLOW IS IN THE **GRIP** OF SOME STRANGE PARALYSIS! THERE'S NO TELLING HOW **SOON** HE'LL PULL FREE OF IT!

CALL THE **SHERIFF, OLIVIA,** WHILE I GET SOME **ROPE!**

HELLO? **SHERIFF** HALSEY?









# MONOLITH MAIL

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Dear Marvel:

Issue #5 and 6 of 2001 had the same flaws in scripting that previous issues have had. The only thing of interest (aside from the great artwork, as usual) was Harvey Norton. Is Harvey Norton, the comics freak, a symbol of all fans? Jack appears to be using Norton as a critic of his own work. The satire on formula plotlines in #5 was followed by Harvey's stating, in #6, "I am the party with all the unanswered questions... like, what's your name? Where do you live? Why are the 'bad guys' trying to run you down?" These are the questions being voiced by many followers of Kirby's work. I recognized the "princess" as one of the colonizers of Rigel, but we were given no insight into her character or why she was introduced into the plotline of this book. Jack's plots have been all action and little substance. Enough of "close focus" scripting that lacks detail. If 2001 is an epic, then it is a failure. The Skrull-Kree classic in AVENGERS or the Thanos classic in CAPTAIN MARVEL are epics. 2001 is nice drawings—and that's all. Find Jack a good scripter to work with, and then maybe we'll have classic epics, again.

Vallard Eding  
636 Kodiak Ct #3  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Dear Archie:

While reading issue #6 of 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, a strange and puzzling realization came suddenly to mind. I quickly retrieved the preceding issue, just to check it out, and noticed something very peculiar, indeed. On the cover, it proudly proclaims: 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY. However, on the first page of #5 appears the title "Norton of New York: 2040 A.D."

My question, as you can probably guess, is how you can still call this book 2001, when Jack has taken the liberty of jumping 39 years ahead? I'm sure your armadillos will find a way to answer that.

What's that? They can't? Oh well, looks like you're gonna be out of another no-prize!

Sal Cataudella  
130 Union Street, Third Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11231

Sal, old pal—many are the canny and clever Marvelites vying for naught but an ever-elusive no-prize, and skilled and sly are the ranks of anonymous armadillos trained in the art of not awarding the aforementioned, much-sought-after artifact of this, the mighty Marvel Age of Comics! The moral of this mini-truth is that, while you've brought up an interesting observation in its own right, it is not a mistake, blooper or bona fide Bullpen goof.

Knowing, however, that the incredible mind of Jolly Jack is so much more adept at explaining the whys and wherefores of such situations, let's just table your question for the time being and let the forthcoming issues reveal the answer. (Just as a hint, though, we might point out that the ever-unfolding 2001 saga has thus far taken place in times as early as the Dawn of Man and as late as 2040.)

In other words, Sal, no no-prize this time.

Dear Jack,

Of all your titles, 2001 is your most promising. In just six short issues, you have taken us on journeys from the very beginning of time to the far, far future. We have been in contact with cave man and extraterrestrial alike. All have sooner or later come in contact with the Monolith and have been "recycled" to appear as something else in the future (this last segment of the sentence is mere conjecture on my part; what happens to our protagonists remains as much a mystery to me as to anyone else). I do hope an answer will be provided in a future issue.

Will the Watcher appear in a future issue of 2001? His early appearances in FANTASTIC FOUR and THOR seem to have been of a similar nature to those of the Monolith. Unlike the Watcher, though, the Monolith does involve itself in all the dramas—both human and extraterrestrial—that you also involve us in. Perhaps an origin story would be in order.

There are a lot of loose ends yet to be tied up, Jack. Too, I hope some more familiar locales—such as the contemporary world of the seventies, or even the Roaring Twenties—will be utilized as future backdrops for stories. I also hope that Mark Boersma's doubts (as expressed in the letters page of issue #6) about 2001's sales prove to be wrong, and that you will be able to establish the strong issue-to-issue continuity that you seek. Take care!

Steven Scheibner  
P.O. Box 474  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Well, thanks for the comments, Steven. It's always a pleasure to hear from longtime Kirby-watchers such as yourself—especially when you pose such intriguing questions.

While it's doubtful that the ever-observant Watcher will appear in these pages—he being presently occupied with the hosting duties of WHAT IF—the origins of the Monolith just might be another matter.

What do you think, people? Should Jack reveal the secrets of the perplexing parallelepiped, or should the Monolith remain enigmatic and mysterious?

And as to continuity—should we strive for a central, continuing character (ala Mister Machine), or should this series remain an anthology of tales, revolving around the Monolith?

Let us know, okay? (You know how lonely we armadillos can get when there's no mail.)

And in the meantime, hang in there, space buffs! We'll see you all back here in just thirty days for 2001 #11.

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# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

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